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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Air, Naval, and Economic Organization
of North Siberia

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1. Air Major General Kutsnyetsov is the great Soviet Arctic specialist. He is not only in charge of coordinating all the resources of north Siberia, but also in charge of study of strategic air and naval routes in the Arctic, together with the creation and upkeep of polar bases. The Soviet authorities still consult Admiral Papanin who, though he retired in 1949, is a valuable adviser in all questions relating to Arctic strategy.
2. The whole coast of northern Siberia has been covered by numerous "meteo-radar" stations. Their number is estimated at more than one hundred and fifty. They assure the security of, and serial liaison in, the frozen Arctic Ocean, in the direction of the North Pole.
3. All air and maritime installations in the Far North are under control of the state trust, "Glazernorput." The authority of this powerful organiza-tion extends over almost all Soviet territories north of the Arctic Circle, from Cape Kanin (White Sea) to Cape Navarin (Bering Sea).
4. Kutsnyetsov, himself, controls a veritable army, including both military and civilian personnel, with a total of not less than 50,000 persons. The polar air fleet and a great many naval units come under his orders, especially icebreakers, cargo ships, barges, and vedettes, specially designed for use in the Arctic Ocean.

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-2-

5. The Arctic bases are designed from a military standpoint and with reference to a strategic offensive against the territories of the United States and Canada. Besides the big aerial bases, Kutznyetsov's assistants are charged with equipping "floes" (drifting islands). These are to be used as supplementary meteorological stations. They are also to provide supplementary posts for mechanical devices to detect submarines by an ultra-sonic system. Numerous exercises for training (including liaison) have been carried out in the Arctic Ocean. Air squadrons from Tiksi and Verkhutsk, which constitute the two pivots of the Soviet polar front, have joined in these.
6. The problems of enduring the cold and the training of specialized troops have not been neglected. Large-scale maneuvers are held every year in northern Siberia, and a period of winter training is compulsory for participating units. These maneuvers may involve as many as twelve to fifteen divisions at once. The military works erected on the Chukosky Peninsula have more than a merely defensive character. Various forced laborers, who have now been set free, say that a great many launching ramps have been built. These are adapted to the use of guided missiles. They are aimed toward Alaska.
7. Various Siberian economic organizations also form part of Glasermorput. These include: "Artikugolz" (exploitation of coal deposits in Spitsbergen, Sanger, and Norvick), Sevpolarless (Northern lumber), Taimyrstrust (combination of fisheries and canned fish industry), together with some others. Glasermorput is so organized that it can handle simultaneously the development of aero-naval forces, and at the same time keep open the air and maritime communications needed for bringing out the wealth of Northern Siberia.

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ice-breakers, cargoships,